

Fourth Place: Margay Dean

If I Were a Communications Specialist, What a Difference I Would Make

If you are like me, you are a speaker of the English language. If you are also like me, you are a proud Houstonian. If you are very much like me, you enjoy tortillas plain and dry, and though you do not necessarily advertise the fact, you have a deep and enduring love for Asia (the band). But that is neither here nor there. If you were a future communications specialist like me, what a glorious difference you would make!

As a communications specialist, I would not only raise the grammatical bar for Houstonians, but inspire the entire country to rise to our standards of grammatical perfection. I would be a master proof-reader, meticulously scanning every brief, report, and brochure that comes through human resources: I would instantly remedy inadvertent spelling and punctuation errors, then use my mental vocabulary rolodex to refine mediocre phrasing into sentences that resonate. I would use my passion for language to make our city a shining example of proper grammar usage.

Beyond this, I would also use my communication skills to teach desiring fellow employees how to avoid pitfalls that they might better represent our city. No longer will Spell Check dictate the limits of a paper, and no longer will intelligent people become subject to the limits of a computer program for their grammatical needs. As my proofreading skills became less and less a necessity for the department, I would steadily ascend to the ranks of writer and photographer.

So let no comma be misplaced! Let there be no mistaken identity among homophones such as “their,” “they’re,” or “there!” Let no dependent clause stand alone! Nay! the Houston smog has broken into a glorious sunrise, and I am just in time to snap a picture. Houston, let there be enlightenment!